

Message Text

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ACTION NASA-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SCI-06 L-03 NSC-10 PM-07 XMB-07 OPIC-12 AID-20

RSR-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 /125 W

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R 300800Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5597

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E. O. 11652; DECON 31DEC76

TAGS: TSPA, NASA, MA, US

SUBJ: NASA STATION IN MADAGASCAR

REF: TANANARIVE 1190(NOTAL)

FOR:S REDSO/NAIROBI

BEGIN SUMMARY: MOFA HAS AGAIN RAISED ISSUE OF RENT FOR NASA STATION BASED ON TEXT 1963 AGREEMENT. WE ATTEMPTING MEET ISSUE BY POINTING ZB SERIES OF ACTIONS WE PREPARED CARRY OUT FOR BENEFIT OF MADAGASCAR. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF MALAGASIZATION PLAN FOR STATION OUTLINED TO FONMIN, AND IMPORTANCE SELECTION OF MALAGASY

"COOPERATING AGENCY" BY NOV EMPHASIZED. END SUMMARY.

1. RENTAL ISSUE. MALAGASY

FONMIN RATSIRAKA BROUGHT TEXT NASA

STATION AGREEMENT OF 07OCT1963 TO DINNER AT RESIDENCE 28AUG

TO BACK UP HIS STATEMENT (REFTEL) ABOUT ITS REFERENCE TO RENTAL.

HE POINTED TO FRENCH TEXT STATING "LES SUPERFICIES NECESSAIRES

A LA STATION SERONT DONNEES EN LOCATUON AU GOUVERNMENT DES

ETATS-UNIS". I COUNTERED WITH ARGUMENT OUTLINED PARA 5-A REFTEL.

HE, HOWEVER, QROKEEDED READ OUT DICTIONARY TRANSLATION OF "LOC-

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ATION" AS "LETTING OUT ON HIRE, RENTING, RENT, ETC."

2. I THEN PROCEEDED STATE THAT, WHILE FOR REASONS OF PRINCIPLE WE WANT AVOID FORMAL QUID PRO QUO, WE ARE PREPARED, IN ORDER HELP HIM MEET HIS INTERNAL CONCERNS RELATED TO NEGOTIATION OF EXTENSION OF NASA STATION AGREEMENT, PROVIDE ABOUT \$250,000 WORTH OF NASA COMMUNICATIONS EQUIP DESIRED BY DIRECTORATE POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AS WELL AS WEATHER PHOTO MACHINE REQUESTED BY METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE.

3. I ADDED THAT I FELT SURE WE COULD ALSO TIME EXPECTED RAILROAD LOAN TO FIT HIS INTERNAL POLITICAL NEEDS WITH RESPECT TO NASA AGREEMENT IF HE SO WISHED. HE REPLIED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS MATTER IN HANDS OF MUN TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT ON WHICH HE SEEMED DISINCLINED TO INTERVEFE.

4. MALAGASIZATION. NOTING THAT MCKEEHAN FROM GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER HAD REMAINED HERE FOR TWO DAYS AFTER TRUSZYNSKI'S DEPARTURE TO WORK OUT MALAGASIZATION PLAN WITH NASA STATION DIRECTOR, I BRIEFED RATSIRAKA ON SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 25AUG MEETING WITH HIM:

A) HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THERE REAMIN ONLY 24 AMERICAN POSITIONS NOW FILLED BY BENDIX CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL FOR WHICH NEW TRAINING STILL NEEDS TO BE INITIATED TO ENABLE THEIR REPLACEMENT BY MALAGASY. ACCELERATED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MEETING THI NEED WILL BE INITIATED 01OCT.

B) MALAGASY PERSONNEL NOW EMPLOYED AT STATION HAVE POTENTIAL FOR REPLACING ALL SENIOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL OF BENDIX ASSIGNED TO MADAGASCAR. AS THESE MALAGASY EMPLOYEES MOVE UP, NEW MALAGASY PERSONNEL HAVE TO BE TRAINED TO FILL IN BEHIND THEM AT LOWER ECHELONS.

C) AT UPPER LEVELS ONLY SENIOR "COOPERATING AGENCY" REP WILL NEED COME FROM OUTSIDE RANKS EXISTING MALAGASY EMPLOYEES. HE SHOULD HAVE BROAD ADMIN CAPABILITY RATHR THAN BE TECHNICIAN.

5. I AGAIN STRESSED URGENCY OF MALAGASY SELECTION OF "COOPERATING AGENCY". HE SAID HE HAD NOT YET HAD OPPORZUNITY RAISE QUESTION WITH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, BUT THOUGHT IT WOULD LIKELY BE EITHER DIRECTORATE POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OR ARMY.

6. I NOTED MCKEEHAN RETURNING TANA IN EARLY NOV AND WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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READY NEGOTIATE CONTRACT WITH COOPERATING AGENCY IF IT HAS BEEN CHOSEN. I SAID IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT NASA CONTRACTS WITH COOPERATING AGENCY AND BENDIX WOULD RUN CONCURRENTLY UNTIL LATTER PHASED OUT.

7. COMMENTS: A) I AM NOT SURE RENTAL ISSUE HAS BEEN PUT TO JEST, PARTICULARLY SINCE RATSIRAKA SAID HE US CHECKING ON WHAT NASA HAS DONE ELSEWHERE. IF RENT WAS NOT INTENDED, CHOICE OF TERMINOLOGY USED IN 1963 AGREEMENT SEEMS SINGULARLY UNFORTUNATE.

B);SJATSIRAKA DID NOT RENEW IDEA HE MENTIONED ON 25AUG OF RENT

AS ALTERNATIVE TO MALAGASIZATION.

C) BEST COURSE ACTION IN OUR VIEW IS TO PROCEED WITH MALAGAS-
IZATION PLANS WHICH HAVE JUST BEEN WORKED BUT BY MCKEEHAN AND
NASA STATION DIRECTOR.

A D) SINCE RATSIRAK INDICATED HE WOULD PROBABLY RETURN TANA
BETWEEN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND UNGA (CONTRARY INFO REPORTED
TANA'S 1155-NOTAL), I SHALL SEEK CONTINUED DIALOGUE WITH HIM THEN.

HOWEVER, I DOUBT LIKELIHOOD OF REALLY GETTING HIM COME TO GRIPS
WITH ISSUES UNTIL HIS RETURN FROM NEW YORK IN OCT. WE SHALL DO
WHAT WE CAN IN MEANTIME WITH OTHER FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS.
FIRST EMPHASIS

WILL CONTINUE BE PLACED OF SELECTION OF COOPE-
RATING AGENCY TO MEET NOV DEADLINE FOR MCKEEHAN VISIT. THIS
WOULD PROBABLY LEAVE EXTENSION STATION AGREEMENT TO FOLLOW, SINCE
RATSIRAKA, NOTING AGREEMENT DOES NOT EXPIRE UNTIL END '73, HAS
SHOWN NO INCLINATION PUSH AHEAD AT EARLY DATE.

E) RE RAILROAD LOAN, I THINK WE SHOULD LET MALAGASY DECIDE
PACE AT WHICH IT SHOULD MOVE. OUR POLITICAL PURPOSE HAS BEEN
SERVED BY RAISING POSSIBILITY WITH RATSIRAKA OF LINKING TIMING
OF ITS ANNOUNCEMENT WITH RENEWAL NASA STATION AGREEMENT. I DOUBT
IN FACT GOMR WILL DECIDE MAKE LINKAGE, BUT INSTEAD WILL MOVE
AHEAD WITH RAILROAD LOAN INDEPENDENTLY.
MENDENHALL

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